Talks with ULFA

1364. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ULFA has agreed to unconditional talks with the Government of India; and

(b) if so, have they also agreed to a cease-fire during the course of such talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Government has received an appeal from Prof. Indira Goswami for "Peace Talks" with United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA). The appeal indicated the willingness of ULFA to hold talks with the Government of India without pre-conditions, and also specifically referred to their 'core demand' of sovereignty. In reply to the appeal it was reiterated that the Government of India had consistently expressed its willingness to talk to all groups, which were prepared to adjure the path of violence.

(b) No, Sir.

Proposal to set up National Intelligence Grid

1365. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to build a National Intelligence Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue thereby on an All India basis;

(c) whether recruitment of additional personnel with proficiency in intelligence work is also proposed to be made; and

(d) if so, the plan drawn out, if any, for the purpose during the current and the following two years indicating the funds proposed to be made available therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) In order to provide an

institutional connectivity between the States and central intelligence agencies, an appropriate mechanism has been proposed. Some additional posts and funds have been sanctioned by the Government for this purpose.

Vacancies in CRPF and BSF

1366. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vacancies in Central Reserve Police Force and Border Security Force;

(b) whether any action has been taken to fill up vacant posts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The details of direct recruitment vacancies in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) are as under:

	CRPF	BSF
Group 'A'	608	332
Group 'B'	21066	2424
Group 'C'	916	703

There are other vacancies in deputation and promotion quotas which are filled through normal procedure of holding DPCs and Selection Committee meetings.

(b) and (c) Union Public Service Commission and Staff Selection Commission are making recruitment for the posts of Assistant Commandant (GD) and Sub-Inspector (GD) respectively. Recruitment process for the remaining categories of posts have been undertaken by these Forces.

Pending Cases of Freedom Fighters' Pension

1367. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases pertaining to pension payments to Freedom Fighters are pending with Government;